wil mow in January. The Ohio River was frozen id and traffic came to a dead

d-still. A heavy rain on Jan.

17, 1857, finally melted the ice

on the Kanawha River, which

had been frozen for 37 days. The Congressional elections ere only four months away, but Democratic Nominee Jenkins was snowbound at Greenbottom Campaigning was fruitless before the first spring thaw. So be burned the midnight oil at his Greenbottom Homestead, studying tomes, formulating campaign strategy, and pacing up and down in his specious front hall to practice his rhetoric. Visitors to Greenbottom noted that the highapirited "Cabell County colt" was quivering with excitement,

keyed up for the race ahead. Scheduled Speeches Carefully

in mapping out his schedule for the campaign, Jenkins took care to book meetings which coincided with county or circuit court sessions and thereby insured that there would be a crowd in town. He planned an intensive campaign of two-anda-half mooths in length, with each of his major speeches at the county courthouse. The following was his 1857 schedule by counties:

March 16 - Braxion C. H.

March 17 - Gilmer C. H. (Co. CL)

March 23 - Randelph C. H. (Ca. (C.)

March 24 - Lewis C. H. (Cir.

April 6 - Barbour C. H. (Ca.

April 8 - Upshur C. H. (Cir.

April 13 - Ritchie C. H. (Co. April 14 - Calhoun C. H. (Co. Ct.)

April 18 - Tucker C. H. April 20 - Harrison C. H.

(Cir. Ct.) April 22 - Wood C. H. (2rd Day Co. Ct.)

April 27 - Doddridge C. H. (Co. CL.)

April 29 - Wirt C. H. (Cir. a.)

May 4 - Mason C. H. (Co. CL)

May 6 - Jackson C. H. (Cir. a) May 19 - Roane C. H. (Cir.

a) May 22 - Kanawha C. H.

(Cir. Ct.) May 23 - Putnam C. H. May 25 - Cabell C. H. (Co.

Ct.) In seeking to get better known around the district, Jenkins used the technique utilized by one of his illustrious successors, John F. Kennedy, in the 1960 presidential campaign. He challenged his opponent, Congressman Carlile, to a series of joint debates at the courthouses. As a result of these debates, in which the younger Jenkins revealed depth of knowledge and rapier-like ability to find onenings in his opponent's arguments. Jenkin's reputation spread around the district. One observer com-mented: "Though Carlile was regarded as the most eloquent orator in western Virginia, the plain, logical methods of Jenkins, together with his earnestness and manliness of bearing, and his youthful appearance, never failed to impress the large crowds which attended these meetings.

## . Carlile's Campaign Plans

Congressman Carlile of Clarksburg, the only non-Demotratic member of Congress from the state of Virginia, brought to the campaign another aspect of an issue raised in the 1960 presidential canvass. Although Jenkins was a Protestant, Carlile had been elected to his first term on the "anti-Pope, p'r onative American" platform of

TO SHOW THE STATE OF THE STATE the "Know-Nothing Party" and he carried with him many of the supporters of his 1855 tactics. In 1857, however, Carlile played down these issues and concentrated instead on his proposal to distribute the public lands among the states.

kicking off his campaing in the well as their futile principles, spring of 1857, Congressman have, in their death struggles Carlile stated: "I am again a sprung an old obsolete and fedcandidate for your suffrages, eral measure as the issue in the and as each election decides canvass, to wit: "The Distribusome question of principle or tion of the proceeds of the Pubpolicy, your votes on the fourth Thursday in May next will determine whether you will assert Virginia's right to her share of the public domain. In determining this question, it is necessacy to ascertain antisfactory to ourselves whether we have a right to our share of the public lands, and if so is it expedient to assert our right?"

## Debate First At Weston

Jenkins and Carlile had their first joint debate at Weston on March 24. It is difficult to tell who was the winner, but the Parkersburg News headlined its account of the debate: "Carlile Used Up." In a partisan statement, the News concluded: "We hear from every source that Mr. Jenkins is winning laurels, and adding converts to the ranks of Democracy wherever he goes. The flimsy sophisms by which the friends of distribution attempt to wheedle the people into the support of defunct Know-Nothingism vanish like vapor before his clear, cogent reasoning."

In addition to stumping on the circuit, Jenkins paid very close attention to party organization

district. An important organization meeting was held at the Cabell County Courthouse on March 28, 1857, and the following is the official report of that Democratic meeting:

"On motion, John Morris. Esq., was called to the chair and Dr. A. B. McGinnis appointed secretary. The chairman explained the object of the meeting to be to nominate a suitable candidate to represent us in the next General Assembly of Virginia, to appoint vigilance committees throughout the county, and to transact other business of importance to the party.

On motion, the chairman appointed Dr. A. B. McGinnis; H. W. Shelton, and L. On g. to draft resolutions for the action of the convention. The committee reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, our political enemies, the Know Nothing party, having failed before the people with every hobby, and in the

In his official announcement passing away of themselves, as

lic Lands, seeking to cave? and bury every other measure echeme, ia s d by this new thereby decoy hodest Dem crats into their ranks, therefore, Resolved, That as Democrats who hold sacred the principles of Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, Calhoun and Pierce, we will exert our best and most vigilant efforts to prevent disaffection in the Democracy throughout the present canvass.

Resolved, That in Mr. A. G. Jenkins, the Democratic nominee for the 11th Congressional District, we recognize a gentleman of ability and worth, and as a native citizen of our county, to whom we can look with pride, and the hope of future usefulness.

Resolved. That he merits the support of every Democrat, and that we will make use of all honest means to accomplish his election.

Resolved, That every Democrat favoring the distribution of the public lands is unsuitable to represent us in the National or State Legislature.

Resolved, That to reconcile all differences, however slight, amongst the Democracy of Cabell county, this meeting nominate Thos. Thernburg, Esq., to represent us in the next House of Delegates of Virginia, and

ell county, this meeting nominate Thos. Thornburg, Esq., to represent us in the next House of Delegates of Virginia, and

our best efforts shall be it forth to secure his election. Baselved, That the following vigilance committees, (one for each precinct) be appointed, with authority when organized. to increase their numbers indefinitely;

At the Court House, W. C. Miller, E. W. Blome, John Merritt, Wm. Eggers, A. Moore, and D. McComas. At Doolittle's Mill, A. Gwin, Chas Everett, John Miller, G. W. Sheff, J. Hundon and Asa Wilson. At Little Guyan, J. H. Hannan, Dr. Wm. Jenkins, Dan'l Spurlock, John W. Blake, Wm. Perry, and Thos. Spurlock, At Teay's Valley, John Morris,



